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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 37 (c)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Environmental early warning

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989 and 46/217 of 20 December 1991, on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency, and recalling chapter 18 of Agenda 21, 1/

Recalling the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, 2/ outcome of the World Conference On Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, and specifically that early warnings and the effective dissemination of such information are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

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1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I, Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ E/1994/85, annex II.

Considering the very large number of lives lost and the high amount of material damage which occurs yearly, caused by natural and man-made disasters,

Convinced of the need to increase awareness, prevention and mitigation of and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters,

Taking into account already existing early warning capacities within the United Nations system, in particular within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to avoid a duplication of work among United Nations bodies dealing with early warning capacities,

Mindful that early warning capacities are especially important for developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to report on early warning capacities within the United Nations system and to make proposals on how they may be improved and better coordinated in order to provide for an adequate response to recurring natural and man-made disasters;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report recommendations on the capacity of the United Nations system to coordinate effectively information about natural and man-made disasters and to pass on this information to regional, national and sectoral early warning capacities.